

# DISEASES PREVALENT AMONG YOUNG CHICKENS--REMEDIES

Something About Their Causes and Symptoms; How to Prevent or Cure.

Home Treatment for Ordinary Troubles of the Amateur.

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At this time of year, the amateur poultry raiser is at the mercy of any number of diseases that may make serious losses on his flock unless he is prepared.

In this article, the author tells how to identify a number of the diseases that are most likely to manifest themselves. Also he tells how to get them in hand before the damage is done.

Many amateur poultry raisers are anxiously looking forward to the breeding season, having in mind their troubles and losses in previous years. Therefore, let us look over the list and see if we cannot get a better insight into the causes, symptoms, cure and prevention of the more common diseases, with the idea of avoiding loss, if possible.

While diseases may not be inherited, yet many times the susceptibility to them is strongly inherited and therefore we should see to it that we breed only from stock that are well bred, strong and vigorous. We should make sure that the birds have been properly housed and fed only wholesome food, and this latter given in such a way that they are obliged to take enough exercise to maintain a good circulation of the blood. It is preferable to have them take much of this exercise out of doors.

The hatching eggs should not be kept too long and should be well cared for. Many times weakness in chicks is traceable to chilling in transferring to brooders or to insufficient heat in the brooders. Overheating, as in too small brooders where they have no way of escaping to a cooler place, gives the same symptoms as chilling.

Symptoms, loss of appetite, lack of activity and a tendency to crowd even after the temperature has been regulated, also looseness of the bowels. Treatment—This calls for prevention rather than cure. As large numbers die directly or indirectly from this cause, it is well to imitate the other hen in all our brooding systems. Follow above instructions.

Picking is quite common among young chicks during the first week that they are put into the brooder. If the chicks are taken to the brooder at night instead of in the morning, there is less danger of it. They can then be fed the following morning and kept active. In case chicks get to pecking, feed often but sparingly and scatter the grain into a light litter where they can work for it. In addition, there have been some fine chopped meat or green bone and green food once or twice daily. This plan will keep the chicks occupied and make them healthy. Under these conditions they will forget about pecking.

Leg weakness is caused by dampness, insufficient ventilation, improper feeding and lack of exercise. Treatment, first remove the cause; let the chicks out on the ground and feed proper rations.

Sore eyes. The sticking together of the eyelids with a thick, dark-colored secretion is not generally fatal. Treatment—Wash the eyes in a weak solution of boric acid of hydrogen and grease them with vasoline.

Gapes—Symptoms, frequent gasping for breath due to the parasite worms in the windpipe. These are known as gape worms. Many of these are coughed up and live in the ground. These or the eggs are picked up the next season and thus the trouble continues year after year. Treatment—A feather may be slipped so as to resemble a small point brush, moisten this feather slightly with oil of turpentine and quickly thrust into the windpipe when the chicken gapes. It will kill the worms which are coughed up.

To prevent a reappearance of this trouble, raise the chicks in a new ground the following season. Do not let them on the old run for two or three years. Do not move infested chickens to a new area and thus spread the trouble.

Coccidiosis is quite common and is usually fatal. Chicks from poor breeding stock are very susceptible. Symptoms, drooping, stunted growth, common diarrhea. A not-mortal disease, but causes or blind intestine enlarged, hardened and often of a brownish color, the liver is covered with yellow spots or patches. This disease is similar to blackhead in turkeys and no cure is known. Treatment calls for prevention by the use of strong vigorous breeders and thorough disinfection of the brooders with a part of carbolic acid to three parts of water. Use of any good strong disinfecting material. Give plenty of clean milk or buttermilk from the first feeding.

White diarrhea—Many forms of bowel trouble are often mistaken for this fatal disease. The familiar white diarrhea is usually inherited from the parents of the chicks, and is transmitted to the chicks, any of whom die at less than 10 days of age. Symptoms, drooping wings, listless, almost a thick pasty discharge and a matted away of the body.

Treatment—Liberal use of sour milk, one part to four parts of water, and force feed into the chick here they are old enough to be taken out of the incubator. This trouble can be avoided by rigid selection and careful care of the breeders.

Moldy feeds and moldy litter are responsible for much of the mortality among young and especially young chicks. The old dust from the litter is inhaled through the lungs, while mold is fed into the digestive organs. Symptoms—The bird is inactive and stands around with the wings drooping down. The breathing is rapid, with a tendency to catarrh, and the chicken has little disposition to eat. The remedy is usually white. A post-mortem will show soft yellowish growths in the lungs and sometimes in the intestines. These are in size from a pinhead to a pea.



S. C. White Minorcas.

Copyright, 1915.

By Louis Paul Graham.

Minorcas, Spanish and Andalusians, are all of one race—all from one country or origin—Spain. The former have been known to and bred by the English for almost a hundred years. According to some authorities, the very earliest name of the entire group was Minorcas. White Faced, Blue and Black, and later, when some white sports from the black variety were successfully bred together and re-named—the White Minorcas.

White Minorcas have been developed from sports or albinos of the black variety, and as lovers of large white eggs and in other characteristics equal their black cousins. They are large, striking fowls with their pure white plumage, long neck and earlobes contrasting strongly with the

brilliant red of their large combs and wattles. In the male the comb should be heavy, neatly serrated and slightly erect. In the female the comb is thinner and folds, hanging over one side of the head.

These fowls, together with their black sisters, hold the record for the production of the largest white eggs, and at first glance, on account of their size—males six and one-half to eight pounds; females five and one-half to six and one-half pounds—would appear to be the ideal fowl for stocking an egg farm specializing on extra large white eggs for a fancy trade. In theory this is good. In practice impossible. The White Minorca is not a rugged fowl. It cannot be raised in thousands as successfully as the Leghorns.

There is no known cure. This is a call for prevention by the use of only clean, sweet food and using litter free from mold, and keeping the yards well spaded or planted to some green food.

The best and cheapest tonics are pure air, pure water, wholesome food, plenty of exercise and sanitary surroundings. Most of the commercial feeds are very good. In having them avoid those with too much millet or other hard-shelled grains. Grit should be fed separately. Be absolutely sure that all foods are free from mold or mold dust.

One can afford to pay a good price for their skin milk or buttermilk to use for the first few weeks, not only on account of its food value, but as a tonic and aid to digestion and a preventive to many troubles.

A summary of general essentials for growing young stock:

1. Chicks well hatched from strong virgin parents.  
2. Reared in brooders large enough so they can stay in them till moved to the laying pen in the fall.  
3. A good brooder should be roomy, have plenty of fresh air under a good cover, the air to be uniform and sufficiently warm.  
4. A good range on clean, uncontaminated soil with plenty of green food to pick.  
5. Sufficient shade for hot days.  
6. Plenty of pure water at all times.  
7. Good food, free from mold and properly fed.  
8. Make the surrounding conditions absolutely sanitary.

Endeavor to prevent and cure rather than to cure them, as the most profitable fowls are those that have been grown normally.

Although certain lilies need various preparations of soil for successful cultivation, there are others which thrive in ordinary garden soil. Preferably, it should be a deep, sandy loam, free from stagnant moisture, such as herbaceous plants delight in. When planting bulbs, they should be placed at a depth where four to six inches of soil remains above their roots and where soil is inclined to be heavy but a handful of sand and one bulb, as at this depth they are less liable to be affected by drought in summer. Under these conditions, the following lilies will thrive and become permanently established.

It is customary to include under the name "lily" flowers which are not true lilies. For example, the Belladonna Lily, Day Lily, Lily of the Valley, Water Lily, etc., but as this is quite the general practice, we accept it, including in our list some of these so-called lilies. The Madonna Lily (*Lilium candidum*) is known under several names; in old-fashioned gardens this fragrant blossom, with its tall, graceful stem and pure white flowers, was called the Annunciation Lily. The bulbs must be planted in August, and they start growing at once. The anthers may be removed when the flowers are half open, to keep the petals clean as they shed pollen very easily.

Turkey's Cap (*Lilium superbum*) is a beautiful plant, and very prolific in bearing. It is distinguished by thirty to forty bright flowers of a deep orange-red, spotted with brown-purple. They thrive in any good garden soil, and do equally well in sun or shade. Canada lilies (*Lilium canadense*), familiar to all nature-lovers under such names as field, wild, meadow, yellow, is one of the most abundant of the genus. In the country, almost anywhere, from June to August, at least a clump or two of these charming yellow lilies are seen growing in low, moist meadows, with their nodding, hanging bells seeming almost to twinkle in the sunshine. The yellow flowers are in terminal clusters of one to twelve blossoms. Given a moist clay or dampish soil in the border, these thrive wonderfully, and bloom prolifically.

From China comes the Regale Lily (*Lilium regale*), a beautiful, hardy white blossom, although not as pure white as the Madonna Lily. The petals are marked on the outside with a brownish tint, and the inside is flushed with a creamy tone. This plant is hardy as far North as the Yukon, and is well adapted to good peaty soil. It is well adapted to good peaty soil, and is an excellent place for it being among Rhododendrons. At present the bulbs of this species are expensive, the supply being limited.

The Scarlet Martagon Lily (*Lilium chalcedonicum*) is a bright red lily with

reverted petals, and is most effective in a border. The Martagon Album is, perhaps, the choicest member of the Martagon family, the flowers being pure white.

Japan has given us a gorgeous lily known as the Golden-Bellied Lily of Japan (*Lilium auratum*). The flowers are pure white, with crimson spots, while through the center of each petal runs a clear golden band. It is not unusual to see these flowers measuring nearly twelve inches across, where the plant has been congenial surroundings. The Auratum has a habit of disappearing after a few years, and must be replanted. The most suitable soil for them contains a mixture of sand and leaf-mold.

A splendid yellow lily is the Caucasian (*L. Monadelphum*), a pale yellow variety, with a purplish tinge, blooming in June and July, but satisfactory results are not to be had the first year, as it requires some time for the plants to establish themselves. The Savatium variety, of the same species, which is straw color, with black spots and brown anthers, is considered the flower of these two.

A hardy lily from Siberia (*L. tenuifolium*) is the coral lily, and is the smallest of all lilies. Its waxen scarlet bells brighten the garden in June and July. But must be taken not to crowd it out with stronger plants. It is frequently at its best when four years old, and then, unfortunately, dies out. The Tiger Lily is a general favorite in small gardens. Its bright, orange-red flowers densely spotted with blackish purple, are at their best in midsummer.

Finally, we shall include a few others, without going into details: *Lilium Elaeagnis*, in several varieties; *Erethronium*, orange flowers spotted with maroon; *Incomparabilis*, flowers deep blood red, spotted with black; *Prince of Orange*, rich apricot. The yellow *Spectabilem* (*Lilium Henry*), a glorious lily, deep salmon-orange, very vigorous, with sometimes as many as thirty blossoms on a stem. Last but not only for lack of space, but for lack of space, the long-flowered, fragrant, snow-white Japanese blossom, which deserves a place in every garden.

There are many who imagine ducks' eggs inferior to those laid by hens, whereas exactly the reverse is true. To have them at their best, however, at least five ducks and a drake should be kept, or better still, ten ducks and two drakes, and the ducks will lay almost daily from about the first of January to the middle of July. Many affirm that duck raising is more interesting than rearing chicks, as the small ducks afford so much amusement, especially at feeding time, when they keep up an endless waddling procession between the feed trough and the drinking fountain.

Little ducks should be provided, if possible, with a small swimming pool about a foot deep, after they are two weeks old, where they may bathe and play all day. Such a practice would be frowned upon by a commercial rearer for various reasons, but where ducks are raised for pleasure and profit, more latitude is permissible. The hatching season for this year is on the same first ten days of the year. The first meal in the brooder may consist of a mixture of half bread crumbs and half crushed oats, rolled oats, or oatmeal; it should be crumbled and moistened with water.

For the first two days give nothing except water to drink, and supply this fresh and clean three or four times daily in fountain made so that they may dip their little heads in it, not permitted to do this they are not to be troubled with their eyes. Moreover, ducklings, at all ages, if deprived of plenty of drinking water, cannot eat as much food as they should.

On the third day change the food to equal parts stale bread, rolled oats, corn meal, and wheat bran; feed this also five times, and keep the feed trough sweet and clean. On the fourth day add one part chick-size grit to the food, continuing to feed as on the third day until the sixth. The sixth day begin feeding one part corn meal, one part bran, ten per cent. red dot flour, five per cent. meat scrap, ten per cent. green food, and one per cent. chick-size grit. Once a week add one per cent. charcoal. All percentages are on measure, and for green food use alfalfa, timothy, tender grass, or alfalfa. Keep up this ration until the ducklings are about eight weeks old, when they should be confined in a pen with only a small runway, and fed three parts corn meal, one part flour, one part wheat bran, one part meat scraps, and five per cent. chopped green food. On the eighth day the ducklings will clean up in twenty minutes, three times a day. If properly fed, ducklings should weigh from four to six pounds when ten weeks old.

THE DANDELION AND ITS USES.  
(From the Woman's World.)

Mother Nature has provided for the bodily demands at this time by sending up from the ground foods filled not only with the very medicines the body needs but in a form which acts as a broom to the system. The dandelion is full of tonic salts and is aperient, besides being a natural liver medicine; the taraxacum it contains is in many a doctor's prescription, and its bulk as it passes through the body reaches in the clogged arteries and sweeps them out, carrying off the waste which is causing auto-intoxication of self-poisoning. Not only is it a natural cathartic, but it is a sweeter vegetable to eat than when cooked with a little lemon juice and sugar to counteract the bitterness it can be used in many tasty ways. One of these is to blend in a saucepan over the fire one gill of cream, two ounces of butter and the same weight in flour, and mix with it the yolks of three eggs and about a pound and a half of dandelions (which have been cooked with two tablespoons of lemon juice and one of powdered sugar, then chopped fine, add salt and pepper to taste and lastly the stiff beaten whites of the eggs; steam thirty minutes).

Any left-over cooked dandelion greens can be made appetizing for luncheon by chopping them fine, and adding some butter and cream; fill this mixture into the whites of hard-boiled eggs, after removing the yolks, and then place in a buttered baking dish; cover first with white sauce and then with the grated yolks of the eggs. Brown in a quick oven.

A delicious spring salad may be made by covering young and tender dandelion leaves with cottage cheese balls and dice of cooked bacon, and then pouring over them a dressing made of the bacon fat strained, vinegar, salt and pepper.

Some OLD-FASHIONED FLOWERS

They Were the Glory of the Colonial Gardens.

The less formal part of a garden often proves the stumbling block to the puzzled but ambitious outdoor enthusiast, when, as a matter of fact, there is no form of planting quite so fascinating or so simple, or which offers more brilliant effects than the irregular masses of old-fashioned blossoms. The hardy perennials are little trouble to grow, and if kept free from weeds, and the superfluous shoots are removed in early summer, they never fail to produce a wonderfully fine display of color. The ground should be well prepared by deep digging and good manuring, and the next very important point is to be careful in making a choice of the flowers. For due regard must be paid to form and color, as a huge mass of intermingling shades is never attractive and spoils the general effect. Two or three different kinds of flowers, at most, more to the general reader than a bed of mixed flowers. Take the Japanese Anemones, for example, which, when planted in bold masses (especially the Queen Charlotte variety), with their rose-colored flowers, make a wonderful show; as do also the Artemisia lactiflora, with white blossoms, growing to a height of four feet and flowering early in the autumn. The Drooping variety of the Anemone is also excellent for massing; it has deep sky-blue flowers which grow in the greatest profusion almost all summer long, and are always greatly admired. There is the Opal variety of this same flower, which is also charming, and both these may be raised from seed sown in the garden during May, and can be increased for the next year by taking up the roots in the autumn and cutting them into pieces several inches long and keeping them in a frame during the winter months. The Perennial Aster is an ideal plant for massing, of which there are innumerable varieties, and the general reader may find the purpose of which we are treating, perhaps the Climax, with its large blue flowers and bright golden centers, is most worthy to include in our list. Indeed, there are so many hardy flowers, such as the phlox, peonies, Oriental poppies, snapdragons, etc., that it is surprising they are not often used in the average garden when the varied and charming effect they lend to any view is taken into account.

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but never made skippy. Fed five times daily in shallow board troughs six or eight inches wide, thirty inches long, and one-half inch deep.

HOW AND WHAT TO EAT.

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## DYNAMITE BLAST COSTS MAN AN EYE

St. Johnsbury, May 25.—William Perkins, age 62, lost the sight of one eye and his face was severely cut by flying rocks in an explosion of dynamite while at work on a new road over Hubbard Hill in Waterford this forenoon. A charge failed to go off and he went to investigate the cause when the explosion occurred. He was blown about 30 feet. Dr. W. B. Fitch, ordered his removal to Brightlook hospital. He will recover.

## BURROWING IN WAR ZONE

More Earth Moved Digging Trenches Than in Construction of the Panama Canal.

(From the Rutland Herald.)  
The reforestation of Vermont's denuded hillsides is a task whose magnitude might appal a Hercules, but that it is going forward as fast as the limited resources at the command of the State forester will permit is evident from the steady extension of the areas devoted to the growing of pine seedlings at the State nursery in Burlington.

It is stated that at present between five and 10 acres of land are utilized for the growing of these quick-maturing trees and new tracts are being planted every year. When one learns that more than 10,000,000 seedlings have been transplanted from these tracts, that 25 men are setting out 7,500 a day, and that the demand for seedlings is steadily greater than the supply, it is plain that Vermonters are gradually becoming aroused to the value of their so-called pasture tracts, many of which are unfit for any other profitable purpose.

The importance of this enterprise to the State can hardly be overestimated. The reforestation of our fast-widening water supply, the enormously increasing cost of lumber, the unprofitableness of permitting large tracts to lie in unproductive pasture and the very serious scenic loss represented by barren summits and unwooded hills all make the problem of replacing the forests on our lands of very serious moment.

Several large individual enterprises for conserving woodlands have come under observation, such as the reserves in Addison county established by Joseph Battell, the Hapgood reservations in Peru, the woodlands on the Fletcher properties in Cavendish, Reading and Plymouth and the growing timber on the property of the Rutland Railway, Light and Power company.

These are important and extremely creditable to those responsible therefor, but the most important work is unquestionably being done by the State in an educational way, largely through the efforts of the State forester, whose work in growing yearly of more moment and value to the State.

Many farmers are short-sighted in cutting out naturally seeded places which spring up in their pastures, and the annual onslaughts of Christmas tree buyers represent a considerable timber loss for the future, but, thanks to the work of the foresters and their exploiters, the State is upon us, and the day is not far distant when a landowner will put back a seedling for every tree he cuts off his property.

When that time comes, Vermont property will have nearly doubled in value if the estimates of the experts count for anything.

GREAT MEN AND GARTERS  
(From the News & Citizen.)  
The most humiliating and undoubtedly the most serious disaster of the great war in Europe is here announced in the following cable:

"London, May 25.—The College of Arms announces that King George has decreed that the following names be struck from the roll of knights of the Garter: The Emperor of Austria, the German Emperor, the King of Rumania, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and the Duke of Cumberland."

This means that all of the above, more or less eminent and miscellaneous distinguished personalities, will no longer be able to hold up their stockings unless they use common rubber bands or string their socks from the waist-band, as women are alleged to do in these days. The decree of King George leaves them unkempt and shabby, like shabby gentlemen who have lost the confidence of their tailor and whose trousers bag at the knees. We can picture these poor fellows with their socks falling over their shoes and perhaps dragging—leading to them a hilarious and vagabond aspect.

It is a shame!

WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS SAY  
How Readers Often Miss Some of the Best Things in the Paper.  
(From the Bennington Banner.)

The average reader of a newspaper often misses the best matter in the paper. He looks over the display heads, glances at the local news and feels that he has gotten all that the paper contains. The fact is, however, much of the most valuable matter is in the obscure corners, with single line heads and nothing to attract attention. It is this class of matter, the selected reprint from other papers and the less spectacular of the news that actually contains the most varied and often the most valuable information to be found in a newspaper.

VERMONT AND UTAH.  
(From the Bradford Opinion.)  
Vermont and Utah do not need to be ashamed of their presidential vote since former President Taft has shown the country that he is a big man out of office as well as in office. He has spoken when speech would uphold his successor's hands, and he has refrained from speech when that might be an embarrassment to his plans. He realizes the perilous times the President is facing and he is too big a man and too little a partisan to make that task harder.

A GRAND OLD VERMONT.  
(From the St. Johnsbury Republican.)  
The Republican extends its congratulations to the Hon. Levi P. Morton, the illustrious Vermont, the former vice-president of the United States, who Sunday celebrated his 81st birthday.

To wish him long life, honor and prosperity would be useless, for he has these